



Tail 8-10" Head And Body 7-8"

It takes effort to get rid of rats once they are in your home. The best thing you can do is prevent them from getting in. If you have rats in your home, call the San Diego County Vector Control Program at (858) 694-2888 for a free educational inspection.

Call for a Rat Inspection:

During the inspection, a technician will:

- Look for structural openings and signs of rat activity
- Provide recommendations about rodent exclusion, trap placement and types of rat poisons to use
- Provide a free Rat Starter Kit like the one shown below



Signs Of Rat Activity:

Rat dropping



Actual size

Rat droppings are the most obvious sign of a rat infestation. Look for droppings in attics, garages and storage sheds.

Other signs of rat activity include:

- Rub marks on walls and doorways from greasy rat fur
- Damage to fruit trees
- Signs of gnawing
- Damaged containers
- Sounds in the attic, floors or walls
- Stripped bark from plants and trees
- Piles of cut snail shells or macadamia nuts hidden under plants or wood piles



Rats Diseases:

Rats can carry and spread diseases that can harm humans:

- **FOOD POISONING:** Eating food that has been contaminated with rat urine or droppings can cause food-borne illnesses such as *E. coli* and *Salmonella*
- **PLAGUE:** People can be infected with plague from fleas that feed on infected rats, or directly from an infected rat
- **PARASITES:** People can get tapeworms or trichinosis from rats
- **RAT BITE FEVER:** A bite from an infected rat can cause rat bite fever

Watch a Video on Your Smartphone Now!

Download a QR Reader application from your smartphone then scan the QR code below to watch a short video about rats. Go to www.SDVector.com to learn more about QR codes.



For more information about rats or vector-borne diseases, contact San Diego County's Vector Control Program.

County of San Diego

Vector Control Program

5570 Overland Ave., Suite 102
 San Diego, CA 92123
 (858) 694-2888

www.SDVector.com



RATS

END THE RAT RACE

Exclusion, Trapping And Baiting



County of San Diego
Vector Control Program

Rat Facts:

Rats are very destructive pests that can spread disease, contaminate food and food preparation areas, and cause costly structural damage. They have even caused house fires by chewing on electrical wires. Rats are very hardy and can live in many different environments. Your help is needed to help control rats in San Diego County.

Types Of Rats:

Roof Rats: (*Rattus rattus*)

Roof rats are the most common type of rat in San Diego County. They live above ground and like to climb.



Norway Rats: (*Rattus norvegicus*)



Norway rats, or sewer rats, are not usually found inside homes. They like to burrow outside and are bigger than roof rats.

Wood Rats: (*Neotoma spp.*)

Wood rats build nests out of sticks and debris. They are usually found in outbuildings, not homes. They are also called pack rats.



KEEP RATS OUT OF YOUR HOME

Rats can not live without food, water or shelter.
You can get rid of rat problems by following these simple steps!

1 Rodent proof your home and storage buildings!

- Check the outside of your home for holes or gaps the size of a quarter or larger
- Repair all openings using 1/4 inch 18-22 gauge wire mesh
- Install metal weather stripping under doors to remove gaps



2 Remove food sources from your property!

- Keep garbage cans and compost bins covered at all times
- Pick fruit, nuts and vegetables as they ripen
- Throw away or compost fruit that has fallen on the ground
- Feed pets during daylight hours and remove uneaten food right away
- Avoid storing food in garages and storage sheds unless it is in rat-proof, covered metal containers



3 INSIDE your home, use traps, not rat poison!

- Use traps when rats are inside your home. Poisoned rats may die inside walls or attics, creating odors
- Place traps at entry points or where you have seen rat droppings
- Bait traps with peanut butter, dog food or other food that rats have been eating
- Bait traps for three days before setting the trigger
- Tie down traps to prevent injured rats from dragging the traps away and dying inside your walls
- Check traps at least twice a week
- Use CAUTION when placing traps, especially around children or pets

4 OUTSIDE your home, use rat poison!

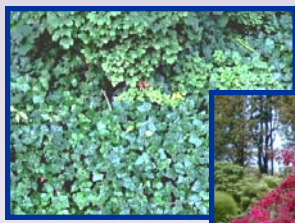
- Rodent proof your home BEFORE using rat poison
- When using poisons, always read the label, follow directions and keep away from children and pets!
- Multi-dose, anti-coagulant rat poisons are the most effective

4 (continued)

- Place rat poison in an enclosed bait station where rats and/or their droppings have been found
- Check bait stations twice a week and add bait when necessary
- Carefully double bag dead rats in plastic bags and place them in the trash
- Move to step five when rats stop eating the rat poison

5 Remove rat habitats!

- Remove all trash and debris
- Stack woodpiles, lumber and household items at least 18 inches away from fences and walls, and at least 12 inches off of the ground
- Keep trees, bushes and vines at least four feet away from the roof



- Keep heavy vegetation such as ivy and bougainvillea away from buildings and fences
- Thin vegetation to allow light in and eliminate rat hiding places